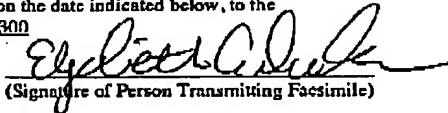


**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JUL 25 2006****CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby verify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to The  
United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below, to the  
following facsimile number (571) 273-8300

Elizabeth A. Dudek

(Name of Person Transmitting Facsimile)

  
(Signature of Person Transmitting Facsimile)July 25, 2006

(Date)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of )

Hisanao Maruyama et al. )

) Examiner: L.R. Edmondson

Title: WELDED PORTION CONSTITUTION  
AND WELDING METHOD )

) Art Unit: 1725

Serial No.: 10/786,262 )

) Confirmation No. 2410

Filed On: February 25, 2004 )

) (Our Docket No. 5764-0002)

***Hartford, Connecticut, July 25, 2006***

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

These amendments and remarks are submitted in response to the  
Office Action dated April 26, 2006.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** begin on page 2; and**REMARKS** begin on page 7.